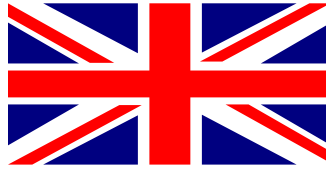
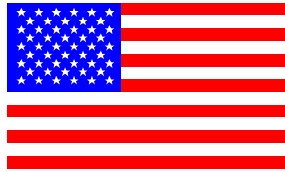


FINANCE OFFICER BASIC COURSE

Battle Analysis



THE SOUTHERN CAMPAIGN OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

American operations during the Revolutionary War Southern Campaign (1780-1781) virtually ruined the British Army under Lord Cornwallis and ended any hope of quelling rebellion among the thirteen colonies seeking independence from Great Britain. For the purposes of the exercise, the Southern Campaign will include 8 military engagements beginning with the Siege of Charleston in March 1780 and ending with the Battle of Eutaw Springs in September 1781. Seven of the battles will be analyzed in class while the eighth (Cowpen's or King's Mountain) will be done on the terrain in the form of a Staff Ride. Analysis will be divided into three major components – Strategic, Operational, and Tactical – that complement the three levels of war as found in the Army's doctrinal manual, FM 100-5, Army Operations (pp. 6-0 – 6-3). The Tactical component will require student groups to analyze the following battles of the Southern Campaign:

- Siege of Charleston (29 March - 12 May 1780)
- Battle of Camden (16 August 1780)
- Battle of King's Mountain (7 October 1780)
- Battle of Cowpens (17 January 1781)
- Battle of Guilford Courthouse (15 March 1781)
- Battle of Hobkirk's Hill (25 April 1781)
- Siege of Ninety-Six (22 May - 19 June 1781)
- Battle of Eutaw Springs (8 September 1781)

FOBC BATTLE ANALYSIS

STUDENT ASSIGNMENTS AND BATTLE ANALYSIS METHODOLOGY.

I. STRATEGIC ANALYSIS (Team 1/ 20 minutes)

q Define the Strategic Level of War (FM 100-5)

- Identify the principal antagonists.
- Identify the national strategic objectives for each antagonist – the national purposes for war? How did the causes of the conflict influence the strategic objectives?
- What were the commitments or agreements with other nations that stood to affect the achievement of war aims?
- How supportive of the war were the people of each nation?

q Define Military Strategy (FM 100-5)

- Identify the military resources that each antagonist was able to devote to the war and their respective commitment to policy objectives. What armed forces did the nations possess? What were the sources of military manpower? How well trained, armed, and equipped were the forces?
- Discuss the evolution of military strategy of each antagonist leading up to the Southern Campaign and how each expected to achieve their political objectives with the use of military force?

II. OPERATIONAL ANALYSIS (Team 2/ 20 minutes)

q Define the Operational Level of War (FM 100-5)

- Discuss the order of battle of the competing forces opposed to one another during the Southern Campaign (March 1780 – September 1781).
- Identify the operational or campaign objectives of the competing forces in the Southern Campaign.
- Discuss the relationship between the operational commanders and their subordinates.

q Doctrine and Technology.

- What doctrine characterized operations and tactics during the Revolutionary War -- the accepted principles of organization and employment of forces?
- Describe the technological level of the weapons and weapons systems used during the Revolutionary War?
- Did either side possess a technological advantage over the other?

q Operational Overview. Provide a brief overview of the Southern Campaign from the fall of Charleston (May 1780) to the Battle of Eutaw Springs (September 1781).

III. TACTICAL ANALYSIS (The 8 Battles of the Southern Campaign) (Teams 3-10/ 20 minutes each)

q Set the Context

- When did the battle occur?
- Where did it take place? Discuss the terrain of the battlefield?
- Who was involved? Discuss the strength and composition of opposing troop units.
- What was the overall combat effectiveness of the units before the battle?

q Mission

FOBC BATTLE ANALYSIS

- What were the missions of the opposing forces?
- What immediate objectives did they select to fulfill these missions?
- Was the selection of immediate objectives consistent with the armies' strategic and tactical goals?

q Describe the Action

- Describe the disposition of forces at the beginning of the action.
- Outline the major phases of the battle.
- State the outcome of battle.
- What were the losses in personnel and equipment on both sides?

q Terrain and Weather

- What impact, if any, did terrain have on the outcome of battle?
- What impact, if any, did weather have on the outcome of battle?

q Command and Control

- Was the commander's intent communicated and understood by those involved. If not, why?
- Were communications systems adequate to control the fight?
- What effect, if any, did enemy action have on command and control?

q Intelligence

- Did commanders seek and use intelligence information wisely?
- Was intelligence information integrated into the operational plans of the opposing forces? If so, how?
- What was the influence of intelligence upon the way the battle was fought?

q Leadership

- What were the relationships between commanders at all levels and their staffs? Did they effect the outcome of battle?
- What were the personality traits of the major commanders and staff officers? Did one person on either side have a profound influence on the battle?
- How flexible were the leaders in adjusting to the changing nature of the battlefield?
- Did the leadership change before or during the battle? If so, what influence did these changes have on the battle?

q Assessing the Action

- What immediate effect did the outcome of the battle have on the war for both sides? Did this battle help either force achieve strategic and operational objectives? Why?
- Did the battle decide the outcome of the war? If not, how did this battle rank in importance with other battles in the campaign?
- Assess the battle in terms of the Principles of War and Tenets of Army Operations (FM 100-5). Which Principle(s) or Tenet(s) best explains the outcome of battle?
- Did the battle teach any significant lessons? Are any of the "lessons learned" applicable to contemporary military students? Why?